# Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Annual School Election Requirements and Timelines November 2, 2021 School Elections

#### SCHOOL ELECTION INFORMATION

The following are highlights of various legal requirements and do not contain all relevant information. All state laws should be reviewed in their entirety for complete information.

**April 23**, **2021** – Deadline for Designating Election Date (Ark. Code Ann. § <u>6-14-102</u>).

**July 2, 2021** – Resolution Publication Deadline for Election by Zone and At-Large (Ark. Code Ann. § <u>6-13-630</u>).

**July 25, 2021\* – August 1, 2021\*** – Candidate Filing Period (Ark. Code Ann. §§ <u>6-14-111</u> and <u>7-7-203</u>). See Ark. Code Ann. § <u>6-13-616</u> regarding school board member eligibility.

[\*Deadlines falling on a weekend or holiday when the designated filing office is closed are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, July 26, and August 2, 2021.]

**September 3, 2021** – Deadline for publication of the proposed 2022-23 budget of estimated expenditures as recorded in the school board meeting minutes (Ark. Code Ann. § <u>26-80-102(a)(2)</u>).

[Some districts may need to seek approval of the 2022-23 proposed budget at the August board meeting in order to meet the deadline. It is suggested that the proposed budget be published at least one week prior to the legal deadline to allow for corrections if an error is printed.]

**September 16, 2021** – Deadline for county board of election commissioners (CBEC) to deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk for mailing to all qualified applicants (Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-407(a)(1)).

October 3, 2021\* – Deadline for the county board of election commissioners of each county to designate all the polling sites for each school district in its respective county, including districts having territory in more than one (1) county but which are domiciled in its county for administrative purposes, and to provide the election supplies and appoint the poll workers for holding all school elections. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-106).

[\*Deadlines falling on a weekend or holiday when the designated filing office is closed are extended to the following business day, per § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, October 4, 2021.]

October 13, 2021 and October 28, 2021 – Deadline for the county board of election commissioners to give notice of all school elections under § 7-5-202 (Also see Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-109 and § 7-5-206).

October 26, 2021 – Beginning of early voting for any qualified elector who applies to the county clerk's designated early voting location (Ark. Code Ann. § 7-5-418).

**November 2, 2021 – General Election** - Poll hours must be continuous from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. (Ark. Code Ann. §§ 7-5-304, 6-14-102 and 7-7-203).

**November 30, 2021** - Whenever there are more than two (2) candidates for election to any position on a board of directors and whenever no candidate for any school district position receives a majority of the votes cast for the office or whenever there is a tie vote, there shall be a runoff election held in the district. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-121).

#### REMINDERS

- 1. A school district shall reimburse the county for the cost of the school election. If the school election is held in an even-numbered year, the school district shall reimburse each county in which the school election appears on the preferential primary election or general election ballot for additional costs incurred by the county when holding the school election in conjunction with the preferential primary election or general election. Total reimbursement for a school election shall not exceed an amount equal to the amount the school district reimbursed one or more counties in the aggregate for the last contested school election held in an odd-numbered year. The school shall reimburse a county for the entire cost of a school runoff election if the school election is held in an even-numbered year and the preferential primary election or general election which the school election is held in conjunction with does not result in the holding of a general primary election or a general runoff election in the county so that the school runoff election is the only issue on the ballot. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-118)
- 2. Special Election (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-14-102). The board of directors of any school district shall have the authority to hold a school election concerning the tax rate or debt issues on a date other than that fixed by law provided that:
  - (1) All constitutional and statutory requirements for the annual school election are met;
  - (2) The election is held before the date of the annual school election; and
  - (3) The Commissioner of Education approves the date of the election.
- 3. If the tax rate proposed in the school election is rejected, the tax rate last approved by the electors in the district will continue to be levied. There are two exceptions to this rule: First, if there is a debt service millage pledge to a commercial bond that has been completely serviced, then that debt service millage shall not be levied. Second, if the operation of Arkansas Constitution Article 14, Section 3(b) or (c) (2) adjusts the millage levied, then the adjusted millage shall be levied (Ark. Code Ann. § 26-80-102).
- 4. Upon approval of a majority of the qualified voters in the school district voting in the school election, the board of directors of each local school district may designate as dedicated maintenance and operation millage some of the school district's additional maintenance and operation millage that exceeds the uniform rate of tax. (Ark. Code Ann. § 26-80-110 (a) (1)). Any funds received from the collection of a dedicated maintenance and operations tax shall be used only for maintenance and operation purposes specifically approved by the majority of the qualified voters of the school district voting in the school election and for no other purposes than those that were stated on the ballot. (Ark. Code Ann. § 26-80-110 (b)). Any levy of a dedicated maintenance and operation millage shall be limited as set forth in subsection (b) of this section and shall not exceed three (3) mills. (Ark. Code Ann. § 26-80-110(c)).

#### SAMPLE BUDGETS AND BALLOTS

Sample Budgets and Ballots are provided for each of the following circumstances:

- I No Change in Mills
- II Transfer of Mills
- III New Bond Issue
- IV Extending Existing Tax or Increase of Total Millage

#### SAMPLE BUDGET I

(For Districts Proposing No Change of Mills)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Listed below is a suggested form for use in publishing the budget of the district and accompanying tax rate as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-622 and Amendment 74 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. The district should begin with the 2021-22 budgeted expenditures for the categories listed below and then project these expenditures to an amount estimated for 2022-23 school year.

1. SALARY FUND EXPENDITU	RES (2021-22 budget)	<u>2021-22 Budget</u> \$	<u>Estimate 2022-23</u> \$
2. OPERATING FUND EXPENDED  A. Instructional Expense B. Maintenance & Operat C. Pupil Transportation D. Other Operating Expense E. Non-bonded Debt (Sch	ion	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$
DEBT SERVICE EXPENDITURE	S (Schedules of payments for fiscal year 2	2022-23)	\$
BUILDING FUND EXPENDITUR	ES (Estimated for 2022-23)		\$
DEDICATED MAINTENANCE &	OPERATIONS (Estimated for 2022-23)	\$	\$
PROPOSED FISCAL YE  The Board of Directors of	\$ 7. Bo \$ 8. Bu	County, Arkansas in a tution of the State of Arkans at in 2022-23 together with a con-bonded Debt Payment anded Debt Payment allding Fund Expense	Y FOR 0, 2023  compliance with the sas, has prepared, approved,
<ul><li>4. Pupil Transportation Expense</li><li>5. Other Operating Expense</li></ul>	\$ 9. De	edicated Maint & Op. Exp.	\$
Total Mills Scho	· <del></del>		
and operation of schools, for debt service previously voted as	previous year. The total tax levy proposed dedicated maintenance and operation mile a continuing debt service tax pledged for roduced each year by debt service millage	ls dedicated for pur the retirement of existing bo	_mills for the maintenance poses, and mills onded indebtedness. The
Given thisday of			Country Aulsoness

### SAMPLE BUDGET II

(Transfer of Mills)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Listed below is a suggested form for use in publishing the budget of the district and accompanying tax rate as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-622 and Amendment 74 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. The district should begin with the 2021-22 budgeted expenditures for the categories listed below and then project these expenditures to an amount estimated for 2022-23 school year.

1. SALARY FUN	ND EXPENDITURES (2	2021-22 budget)	<u>2021-22 Budget</u> \$	<u>Estimate 2022-23</u> \$
A. Instru B. Maint C. Pupil D. Other	FUND EXPENDITURE actional Expense tenance & Operation Transportation  Operating Expenses bonded Debt (Schedules	ES: of Payments for 2022-23)	\$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$
DEBT SERVICE	EXPENDITURES (Sch	edules of payments for fisc	cal year 2022-23)	\$
BUILDING FUNI	D EXPENDITURES (E	stimated for 2022-23)		\$
DEDICATED MA	AINTENANCE & OPER	RATIONS (Estimated for 2	(022-23) \$	\$
	PROPOSED BUDG	(Detach along GET OF EXPENDITURE	om half is to be used for public this line)	LEVY FOR
requirements of A	rk. Code Ann.§ 6-13-62	22 and Amendment 74 of the	County, Arkansa ne Constitution of the State of A the district in 2021-22 together	arkansas, has prepared, approved,
<ol> <li>Salary Fund Ex</li> <li>Instructional E.</li> <li>Maintenance &amp;</li> <li>Pupil Transpor</li> <li>Other Operatin</li> </ol>	xpense \$ c Operation Exp. \$ tation Expense \$		<ul><li>6. Non-bonded Debt Payme</li><li>7. Bonded Debt Payment</li><li>8. Building Fund Expense</li><li>9. Dedicated Maint &amp; Op. 1</li></ul>	\$ \$
	_Total Mills School Tax			
maintenance and continuing debt se produced each year operation previous	ar by debt service millag	d for purposes, are retirement of existing border for other purposes. This use dated	nded indebtedness. The district millage reflects a transfer of	rvice previously voted as a
Given this	day of	, 20		D 11 (D 1

### SAMPLE BUDGET III

(For Districts Voting New Bond Issue)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Listed below is a suggested form for use in publishing the budget of the district and accompanying tax rate as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-622 and Amendment 74 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. The district should begin with the 2021-22 budgeted expenditures for the categories listed below and then project these expenditures to an amount estimated for 2022-23 school year.

1. SALARY FUN	ND EXPENDITURES (	(2021-22 budget)	2021-22 Budg \$	<u>get Est</u> \$	<u>1mate 2022-23</u>
2. OPERATING A. Instru B. Maint C. Pupil D. Other	FUND EXPENDITUR actional Expense tenance & Operation Transportation of Operating Expenses		\$ \$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$	
DEBT SERVICE	EXPENDITURES (Sc	hedules of payments for fis	scal year 2022-23)	\$	
BUILDING FUNI	D EXPENDITURES (I	Estimated for 2022-23)		\$	
DEDICATED MA	AINTENANCE & OPE	RATIONS (Estimated for	2022-23) \$	\$	
The Board of Dire	PROPOSED BUD FISCAL YEAR F	GET OF EXPENDITUR GEGINNING JULY 1, 202	ttom half is to be used for programs that line) ES TOGETHER WITH TO AND INCLUDING  County, Ar	CAX LEVY FOR JUNE 30, 2023	R 3
requirements of A	rk. Code Ann.§ 6-13-6	22 and Amendment 74 of t	the Constitution of the State the district in 2022-23 toge	of Arkansas, ha	s prepared, approved
<ol> <li>Salary Fund Ex</li> <li>Instructional Ex</li> <li>Maintenance &amp;</li> <li>Pupil Transpor</li> <li>Other Operatin</li> </ol>	xpense \$ z Operation Exp. \$ tation Expense \$		<ul><li>6. Non-bonded Debt Pa</li><li>7. Bonded Debt Payme</li><li>8. Building Fund Expe</li><li>9. Dedicated Maint &amp;</li></ul>	ent \$ ense \$	
	_Total Mills School Ta	x			
maintenance and continuing debt se tax or a proposed	operation mills dedicate ervice tax pledged for the	ed forpurposes, and retirement of existing boundaries which will be retired.	maintenance and operation andmills for debt onded indebtedness, and d on The o	service previous mills as a c	sly voted as a ontinuing debt service
Given this	day of	, 20		C	County, Arkansas

### SAMPLE BUDGET IV

(For Districts Voting to Extend Existing Tax or Proposing to Increase Maintenance and Operation)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Listed below is a suggested form for use in publishing the budget of the district and accompanying tax rate as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-622 and Amendment 74 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. The district should begin with the 2022-23 budgeted expenditures for the categories listed below and then project these expenditures to an amount estimated for 2022-23 school year.

SALARY FUND EXPENDITURES (2021-22 budget)	2021-22 Budget \$	<u>Estimate 2022-23</u> \$
<ul> <li>2. OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES: <ul> <li>A. Instructional Expense</li> <li>B. Maintenance &amp; Operation</li> <li>C. Pupil Transportation</li> <li>D. Other Operating Expenses</li> <li>E. Non-bonded Debt (Schedules of Payments for 2022-23)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$ \$ \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$
DEBT SERVICE EXPENDITURES (Schedules of payments for fiscal year	2022-23)	\$
BUILDING FUND EXPENDITURES (Estimated for 2022-23)		\$
DEDICATED MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS (Estimated for 2022-23	) \$	\$
2. Instructional Expense \$ 7. I	County, Arkansas in titution of the State of Arkan	compliance with the sas, has prepared, approved
4. Pupil Transportation Expense \$ 9. I 5. Other Operating Expense \$	Dedicated Maint & Op. Exp.	\$
The total tax levy proposed above includesmills for the maintenais an increase for maintenance and operation of schools, dedicated purposes, and mills for debt service previously voted a of existing bonded indebtedness.* The district may use surplus revenues propurposes.  *If the mills for more than one issue are rededicated, please identify each issue are rededicated.	d maintenance and operation s a continuing debt service to oduced each year by debt ser	mills dedicated for ax pledged for the retiremen
Given thisday of, 20		D '1 (CD 1

### SAMPLE BALLOT I

### (For Districts Proposing No Change of Mills) OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

	OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ANNUAL	SCHOOL ELECTION
IN	SCHOOL DISTRICT OF	COUNTY, ARKANSAS

### (Date)

### VOTE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SQUARE OPPOSITE THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE

	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORyear term (unexpired)	VOTE FOR 1
POSITION NO	David P. Carter	( )
	James W. Hall	( )
	(Write In)	( )
DOCUTION	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR year term (regular)	
POSITION NO	Mrs. Linda Williams	( )
	Charles Smith	( )
	(Write In)	( )
	VOTE ON MEASURE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SQUA OPPOSITE THE MEASURE EITHER FOR OR AGAINST	RE
	For Tax	( )
	Against Tax	( )
	Total Mills School Tax	
operation of sch for debt service	no change from the previous year. The total tax levy proposed above includes	purposes, and mills
	(Perforation)	

### SAMPLE BALLOT II

(Transfer of Mills)

### OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

IN	SCHOOL DISTRICT OF	_ COUNTY, ARKANSAS

## (Date) VOTE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SQUARE OPPOSITE THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE

	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR	_year term (unexpired)	VOTE FOR 1
POSITION NO	David P. Carter		( )
	James W. Hall		( )
	(Write In)		( )
DOCITION	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR	R year term (regular)	
POSITION NO	Mrs. Linda Williams		( )
	Charles Smith		( )
	(Write In)		( )
		PLACING AN "X" IN THE SO URE EITHER FOR OR AGAIN	
	For Tax		. ( )
	Against Tax		. ()
	Total Mills School Tax		
maintenance and continuing debt s produced each ye operation previou	proposed above includesmills for operation mills dedicated for pur ervice tax pledged for the retirement of exists are by debt service millage for other purposes asly pledged to a bond issue datedNCREASE IN TOTAL MILLAGE.	poses, and mills for a graph bonded indebtedness. The a graph in This millage reflects a transfer	debt service previously voted as a district may use surplus revenues er of mills to maintenance and
		Perforation)	

### SAMPLE BALLOT III

# (For Districts Voting a New Bond Issue) OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION IN \_\_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, ARKANSAS

(Date)
VOTE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SQUARE OPPOSITE
THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE

	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORyear term (unexpired)	VOTE FOR 1
POSITION NO	David P. Carter	( )
	James W. Hall	( )
	(Write In)	( )
DOGUTION	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR year term (regular)	
POSITION NO	Mrs. Linda Williams	( )
	Charles Smith	( )
	(Write In)	( )
	VOTE ON MEASURE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SQUA	
	For Tax	( )
	Against Tax	( )
	Total Mills School Tax	
maintenance and retirement of ex	y proposed above includesmills for the maintenance and operation of doperation mills, mills for debt service previously voted as a continuing isting bonded indebtedness, and mills as a continuing debt service tax on which will be retired on The district may use surplus revenues purposes.	ag debt service tax pledged for the a proposed bond issue of
	(Perforation)	

### SAMPLE BALLOT IV

## (Extending Existing Tax or Increasing Total Millage) OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

	OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION		
IN	SCHOOL DISTRICT OF	COUNTY, ARKANSAS	

### (Date)

### VOTE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SQUARE OPPOSITE THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE

	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORyear term (unexpired)	VOTE FOR 1
POSITION NO	David P. Carter	( )
	James W. Hall	( )
	(Write In)	( )
DOCUTION	BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR year term (regular)	
POSITION NO	Mrs. Linda Williams	( )
	Charles Smith	( )
	(Write In)	( )
	VOTE ON MEASURE BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SQUA	
	For Tax	( )
	Against Tax	( )
	Total Mills School Tax	
is an increase for purpof existing bone purposes.	vy proposed above includesmills for the maintenance and operation of or maintenance and operation of schools,dedicated maintenance and opposes, andmills for debt service previously voted as a continuing debt seded indebtedness.* The district may use surplus revenues produced each year by a more than one issue are rededicated, please identify each issue separately.	eration mills for ervice tax pledged for the retirement
	(Parforation)	